(a) whether with a view to upgrade freight business, his Ministry proposes to set up bulk terminals under Public Private partnership mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of such terminals that are proposed to be set up on the ECoR system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present no such scheme for setting up of bulk terminals under Public Private Partnership mode is available.

(c) Does not arise.

Casualties due to fire in Gautami Express

124. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of passengers burnt alive when Secunderabad-Kakinada Gautami Express caught fire near Warangal in Andhra Pradesh as reported in all the newspapers dated 2 August, 2008;

(b) if so, the exact number of casualties held and preliminary investigations into the cause of the accident have been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such accidents of trains in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) (i) 31 passengers died due to fire in Gautami Express on 01.08.2008.

(ii) Commissioner for Railway Safety, Secunderabad has conducted statutory enquiry into the cause of fire. He has passed following remarks in his preliminary report—

(1) The fire in the coaches of Train No. 2738 Gautami Express between Kesamudram-Tadalapusalapalli Railway stations in Kazipet-Vijayawada double line, Broad-Gauge electrified section of Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway appears to be due to some unidentified highly combustible substance (in liquid or solid form) present in the S-10 coach, which was kept there by some unidentified person or persons while the train was running at a speed of 75 kilometers per hour, the fire appeared to have originated from the floor level, at Nekkonda.

(2) The accident falls under the Category "failure of person/persons other than Railway staff".

(iii) Government Railway Police/Warangal have also registered a case vide CR No.191/2008 under classification-accidental fire and under section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code dated 01.08.2008. It is under investigation with the Deputy Superintendent/Railway Police.

(d)
- Frequent drives are conducted against carrying of inflammable materials and dangerous goods in trains and cases are registered under section 164 of the Railways Act by the Railway Protection Force.
- Regular checks are conducted against smoking in trains and cases are registered under section 167 of the Railways Act by the Railway Protection Force.
- Railways are providing fire extinguishers under the charge of the Guard in the Rear Second-class Luggage Room and in Air conditioned coaches for fire fighting in case off any incident.
- Traveling public are being briefed/educated through Mega phones and public address system not to carry inflammable articles on trains.
- Surprise checks are being conducted on the two-wheelers booked for transportation on trains and action is being taken if vehicles are found with petrol.
- All train escorting staff as well as station duty staff are briefed to inform the nearest fire service station to meet eventuality, whenever fire incident are reported on running trains.
- Wide publicity is being given through print/electronic media against the danger of carrying inflammable articles/explosives in trains.

Doubling/electrification of rail line

125. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rail lines doubled/electrified during 2004-08;

(b) the details of the rail lines for which double laning/electrification already sanction for North Eastern Region so far;

(c) the time by when such work is likely to be completed; and

(d) if no such proposal, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, 282, 231, 386 and 426 kilometers of doublings were completed respectively. During the corresponding years 320, 170, 361 and 502 route kilometers of electrification were complete respectively.

(b) and (c) New Guwahati-Digaru (29.8 km.) doubling has been taken up in the region. No target has been fixed for the completion of this doubling. Electrification of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati rail line which is partly in North Eastern Region has also been taken up and targeted for completion by March, 2012.

(d) Does not arise.

Delayed gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan

126. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: